

**WHAT IS CLAIMED:**

1. A method of reshaping a patient's heart comprising:  
  
gauging the size of the left ventricle;  
  
determining the amount by which the left ventricle should be reduced from  
5 the gauging of its size; and  
  
reducing the dimension of the left ventricle in accordance with the  
determined amount.
2. The method according to Claim 1, wherein gauging the size of the left  
ventricle comprises encircling the heart closely with an adjustable length  
10 band, and determining the size of the ventricle with reference to the length  
of the band.
3. The method according to Claim 1, wherein gauging the size of the left  
ventricle comprises inserting an expansible member into the left ventricle,  
and expanding the expansible member.
- 15 4. The method according to Claim 3, wherein the expansible member is a  
balloon, and expanding the balloon is accomplished by the introduction of  
fluid into an interior of the balloon.
5. The method according to Claim 4, wherein gauging the size of the left  
ventricle further comprises measuring the volume of fluid introduced into  
20 the interior of the balloon.

6. The method according to Claim 1, wherein reducing the dimension of the left ventricle comprises creating an opening the in the left ventricular wall.
7. The method according to Claim 6, wherein reducing the dimension of the left ventricle further comprises removing a portion of the myocardial tissue.
8. The method according to Claim 6, wherein creating an opening the in the left ventricular wall comprises creating perforation in the left ventricle extending to the apex of the heart.
9. The method according to Claim 6, wherein reducing the dimension of the left ventricle further comprises hemostatically closing the left ventricle.
10. A method of reshaping a patient's heart comprising:  
  
introducing an expansible member into the left ventricle of a patient's heart, the expansible member being at least partially collapsed;  
  
expanding the expansible member within the left ventricle of a patient's heart; and  
  
reducing the volume of the left ventricle by an amount based upon the expanded volume of the expansible member.
11. The method according to claim 10, wherein the amount of volume reduction of the patient's left ventricle is determined by the expanded volume of the expansible member compared to a desired volume of the left ventricle.

12. The method according to claim 10, wherein expanding the expansible member comprises the introduction of fluid into the interior of the expansible member.
13. The method according to Claim 10, wherein reducing the dimension of the left ventricle comprises creating an opening the in the left ventricular wall.
14. The method according to Claim 13, wherein reducing the dimension of the left ventricle further comprises removing a portion of the myocardial tissue.
15. The method according to Claim 13, wherein creating an opening the in the left ventricular wall comprises creating perforation in the left ventricle extending to the apex of the heart.
16. The method according to Claim 13, wherein reducing the dimension of the left ventricle further comprises hemostatically closing the left ventricle.
17. A method of reshaping a patient's heart comprising:  
encircling the heart closely with an adjustable length band;  
determining the size of the left ventricle with reference to the length of the band; and  
reducing the volume of the left ventricle by an amount based upon the determined size of the left ventricle.
18. The method according to Claim 13, wherein reducing the dimension of the left ventricle comprises creating an opening the in the left ventricular wall.

19. The method according to Claim 13, wherein reducing the dimension of the left ventricle further comprises removing a portion of the myocardial tissue.
20. The method according to Claim 13, wherein creating an opening the in the left ventricular wall comprises creating perforation in the left ventricle extending to the apex of the heart.
21. The method according to Claim 13, wherein reducing the dimension of the left ventricle further comprises hemostatically closing the left ventricle.